

Appl. No. : 10/789,437
Filed : February 26, 2004

REMARKS

I. Amendment to the Claims

In response to the final Office action dated May 16, 2006, the Applicant is filing herewith a request for continued examination (RCE) along with the following claim amendments and remarks for consideration by the Examiner.

By this paper, the Applicant has amended Claims 1, 20, and 40. Claims 1-40 remain pending and are presented for further examination. In the Advisory action dated September 19, 2006, the Examiner notified Applicant that the claim amendments filed on August 16, 2006 will not be entered. Accordingly, the Applicant notes that the above listing of amended claims shows claim amendments relative to the Amendment previously filed on February 28, 2006.

The Applicant has not added new matter by claim amendments. For example, the amendments to Claims 1 and 20 are supported by at least paragraphs 33-47 and Figures 5 and 6. The amendment to Claim 40 is supported by least paragraphs 33-47 and Figures 5 and 6.

The Applicant submits that the claims as currently amended are patentable over at least the prior art of record. More particularly, US Patent No. 6,526,173 to Burns and US Patent Pub. No. 2005/0047662 to Gorodnichy fail to teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, all of the limitations of amended Claims 1 and 20. In further support of patentability, the Applicant hereby incorporates by reference its remarks previously submitted in the Amendment filed August 16, 2006, for further consideration by the examiner.

Since each of Claims 1-19 and 21-40 depends either directly or indirectly on one of Claims 1 and 20, the Applicant submits that those claims are also allowable.

II. Conclusion

Applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the Office Action. Accordingly, amendments to the claims, the reasons therefor, and arguments in support of patentability of the pending claim set are presented above. Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are made in order to improve the clarity of claim language, to correct grammatical mistakes or ambiguities, and to otherwise

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improve the clarity of the claims to particularly and distinctly point out the invention to those of skill in the art. Finally, Applicant submits that the claim limitations above represent only illustrative distinctions. Hence, there may be other patentable features that distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art.

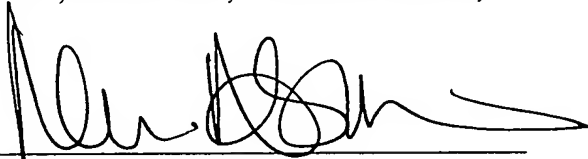
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and, particularly, that all claims be allowed. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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